

RESOLUTION

OF THE

General Assembly of the State of Indiana,

IN REFERENCE TO

MAJOR GENERAL LAFAYETTE.

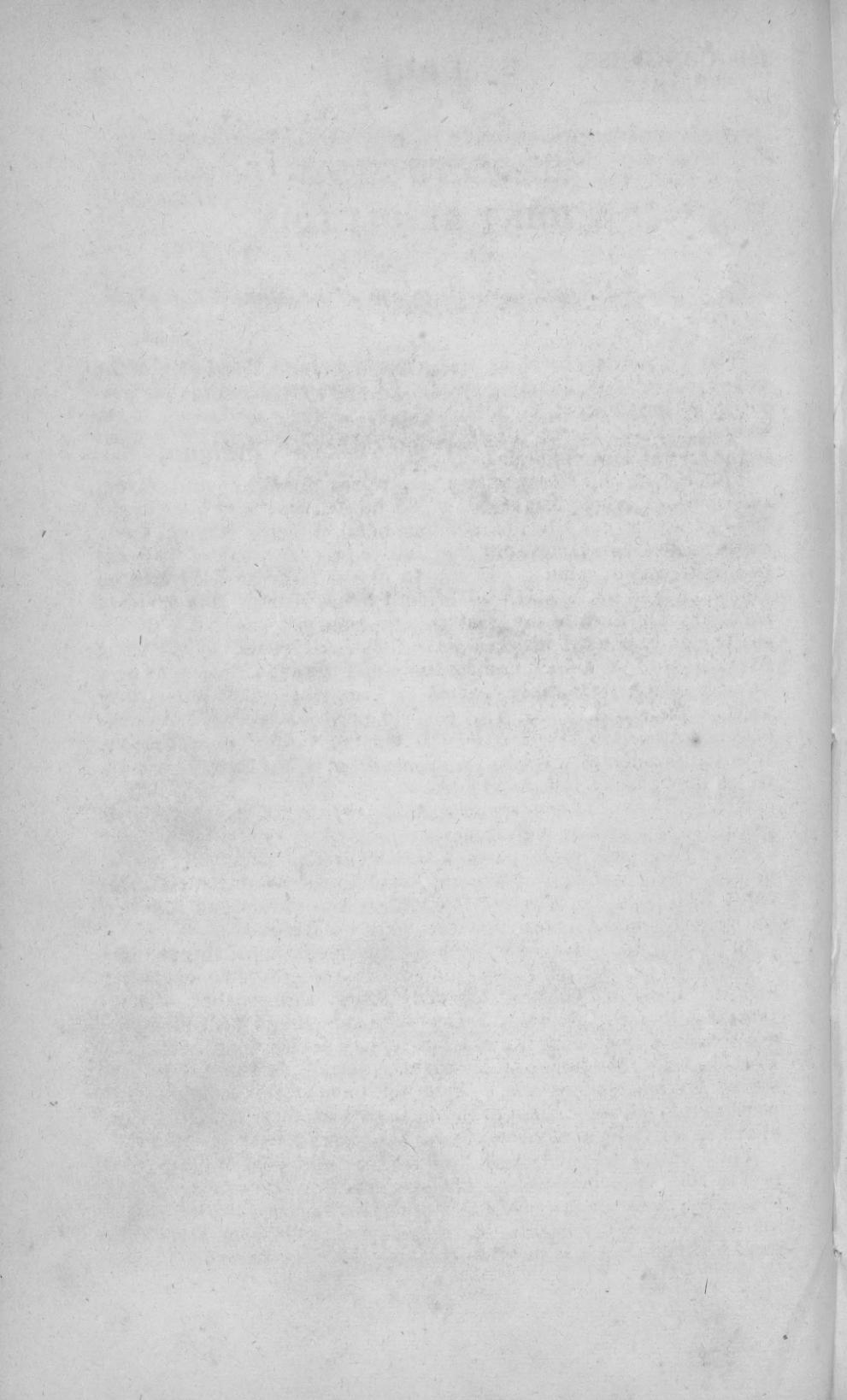
FEBRUARY 15, 1825.

Read: Ordered, that it lie upon the table.

WASHINGTON:

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1825.



A JOINT RESOLUTION

Of the General Assembly, in reference to Major General Lafayette.

The Committee, to whom was referred a Joint Resolution of the General Assembly, directing them to take into consideration the propriety of the General Assembly's expressing their sentiments in reference to Major General Lafayette, respectfully report the following preamble and resolutions:

The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Indiana, in General Assembly convened, would be deficient in respect to the feelings of their constituents, and unmindful of their obligations to a distinguished benefactor, did they fail to join the pæan of National gratitude, and unanimous welcome to Major General Lafayette, on the occasion of his late arrival in the United States. It is scarcely necessary for them to say, that they unanimously accord with the sentiments expressed towards their illustrious friend, by the Chief Magistrate of the Union, and cordially add their sanction to the provision in his favor recently enacted by Congress. The latter, they view as the smallest return for his pre-eminent services and sacrifices the American People could make, or the National Guest receive. It is the dignity of a spectacle, unparalleled in the history of man, which they peculiarly feel and admire.

Ten millions of hearts, spontaneously offering the homage of their gratitude to a private individual, unsupported by rank or power, for services long past, of the purest and most exalted character; whilst they furnish consoling evidence that Republics are not ungrateful, also carry with them the delightful conviction that the sons of America have not degenerated from their fathers of the Revolution.

In pausing to contemplate, with appropriate feelings, this sublime example of popular gratitude, united with reverence for character and principles, the General Assembly learn, with peculiar satisfaction, that it is the intention of General Lafayette to visit the western section of the United States. The felicity denied, by a mysterious Providence, to the father of his country, has, it is hoped, been reserved for his adopted son. What the immortal Washington was permitted to see only through the dark vista of futurity, will be realized in the fullness of vision, by his associate in arms and glory.

The General Assembly hail, with inexpressible pleasure, the prospect of this auspicious visit. They cannot, they are aware, receive their Benefactor in the costly abodes of magnificence and taste, nor vie with their sister states, in the embellishments of a hospitality more brilliant than it is theirs to offer, but not more sincere.

But they can, and do, in common with the whole American people, welcome him to a home in their hearts. They feel persuaded that he will take a deep interest in this part of our country, which though not the actual Theatre of his generous labor, has emphatically grown out of the glorious results of his Revolutionary services. On the west of Alleghany Mountains, our illustrious guest will behold extensive communities of freemen, which within the period of his own recollection, have been substituted for a trackless wilderness, where forty years ago primeval barbarism held undisputed sway over man and nature, civilization, liberty, and law, wield the mild sceptre of equal rights. It is here that our illustrious friend will find his name, his services, and, we trust, his principles, flourishing in perennial verdure. Here too, may he enjoy the exulting prospects of seeing them, in the language of a favorite son of the West, "transmitted, with unabated vigor, down the tide of time to the countless millions of posterity."

In accordance with the preceding sentiments, the General Assembly adopt the following resolutions.

Resolved, That this General Assembly, in common with their fellow citizens of this state and union, entertain the highest admiration for the character, and the most heart-felt gratitude for the services of Major General Lafayette, and most cordially approve of every testimonial of kindness and affection he has received from the People and Government of the United States.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this General Assembly, it would afford the highest gratification to the citizens of Indiana, to receive a visit from their revered and beloved benefactor, the only surviving General of the American Revolution, and that the Governor of this state be requested, without delay, to transmit to General Lafayette this, and the preceding resolution and preamble, accompanied by an invitation to visit this state, at the seat of government, or such town on the Ohio river, as the General may designate.

Resolved, That the Governor of this state, together with such officers and citizens, as may find it convenient, attend at the point selected by General Lafayette, to receive him with the honor, due to the illustrious guest of the state and nation, and that the Governor draw on the contingent fund for the payment of all expenses incurred in executing these resolution.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to the President of the United States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

S. C. STEVENS,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JAMES B. RAY,

President of the Senate, pro tem.

Approved, 28th January, 1825.

WILLIAM HENDRICKS.

STATE OF INDIANA, }
Secretary's Office. }

I, William W. Wick, Secretary of State for the State of Indiana, certify the foregoing to be a true and perfect copy of the original roll, on file in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of State, aforesaid, at Indianapolis, the twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

WM. W. WICK.

